



**WORLD MARITIME THEME FOR 2022
NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR GREENER SHIPPING
A message from Kitack Lim
Secretary-General, International Maritime Organization**

Among the world's most pressing ocean and environmental challenges are climate change, marine litter and preserving biodiversity and this year's World Maritime Theme has been chosen to highlight initiatives intended to address them.

Our theme for 2022 is "New technologies for greener shipping". It provides an opportunity to promote inclusive innovation, research and development (R&D), and technology cooperation, and to showcase solutions for decarbonization and more environmentally-friendly shipping. These ambitions will benefit everyone; no one will be left behind. It is not only a theme. It marks a pathway to help implement the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which set out 17 Sustainable Development Goals, or "SDGs", especially SDG 13 on climate action; SDG 14 on sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources; and SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure.

But above all, it is about partnerships and inclusive technological solutions, reflecting SDG 17, which highlights the importance of partnerships and implementation to achieve all the Goals.

"New technologies for greener shipping" opens up a larger conversation about shipping's direction and how technologies can be harnessed for a more sustainable future. It also provides an incentive to further examine how digitalization and automation can support shipping.

But technological solutions for cleaner, safer and more sustainable shipping must also benefit people. They must consider their impact on seafarers and other marine personnel, including the need for training.

So I am pleased that I am announcing this year's theme to coincide with the first celebration of the International Women in Maritime Day on 18 May and to mark this joint landmark. IMO will generate opportunities for discussion on women in decision-making and on skills development in the maritime industry.

This will support the just and equitable transition to decarbonization of international shipping; and the key role for women in leading change, particularly in the production and uptake of low-carbon marine fuels and ship-board technologies.

Throughout this year, IMO will also highlight green-shipping solutions across the industry and provide a platform for sharing knowledge and best practice. IMO will also foster a dialogue on innovation and technology needs for greener shipping, sharing knowledge at the global level.

To this end IMO will provide updates on initiatives being trialled and piloted by the IMO-established Maritime Technology Cooperation Centres – or MTCCs – and the GreenVoyage2050 decarbonization project and the Blue Solutions Project.

These will demonstrate new maritime decarbonization technologies and build on our NextGen decarbonization initiative, which links efforts of existing IMO projects, MTCCs and various R&D Centres to enhance knowledge-sharing at the global level.

We will also organize another Global Forum to address technology and its deployment in the maritime sector, with a specific emphasis on needs of developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States.

In addition, we will be hosting the second IMO Symposium on Alternative low-carbon and zero-carbon fuels, which will focus both on opportunities in renewable fuel production for the shipping industry in developing countries, and on supporting technology cooperation initiatives to support their transition towards decarbonization.

Another global project will showcase solutions for biofouling management to protect biodiversity and help reduce emissions, while a further initiative will tackle marine plastic litter.

All of these projects highlight the need for all stakeholders across the maritime sector to work together and find solutions and I know that we can all do this.

During the year we will invite all of you to discuss, showcase and highlight inclusive solutions for the future of shipping and we will provide information on how to share your technology stories in due course.

I am excited about the possibilities that this year's theme, "New technologies for greener shipping", brings to the global conversation on the future of our planet, and I look forward to hearing from you, as well.

Let us continue and enhance our conversation for a greener, more equitable and more sustainable maritime future.
